

Religion and Social Service

Activities in the Realm of Religion

The blue book of the Presbyterian general assembly, which has just been issued in Chicago but as yet hardly taken up its Chicago, recommends the Presbyterian church to attack vigorously and at once the prison administration of most States. It will, if it adopts its blue book report, approve the honor system and condemn in strong terms the present plan of sending men into confinement with the idea of reforming them. Especially is it urged by its own program committee to enter upon reform of criminal administration of children's courts. It points out that judges of courts are appealing to Christians to help them end present conditions, and declares that the Presbyterian Church must respond.

Hardly less emphatic is the same blue book in recommending the Presbyterian Church to take up a campaign against the white slave traffic. It states that recent agitation has made matters worse than before and that not agitation but education of the young in sex-matters is essential. Parents in Presbyterian households are to have pointed out to them their responsibilities to State and church for the proper sex training of their children.

The blue book finally urges the consolidation of all existing boards doing educational work into one large society to be called the board of Christian education. This matter has been under consideration for some time. A foremost advocate of it has been President John Willis Baer, of Occidental College, at Los Angeles. It is expected to be approved by the board of publication, one of the largest societies affected, and the prediction is heard that there will be a stout opposition made on the assembly floor.

Henry W. Adams, founder of the Christian Work, New York, now living in Chicago, writes: "We find the following startling statement in the report of a grand evangelist denomination in one State alone 208 of their churches received not one member on confession during the year 1913, and sixty-one others received only one each. In our entire country, on this basis, there must be thousands of such churches. If these were cotton mills in places of churches, the cottonholders would put them out of business in short order."

Contrasted with this is the record of a Chicago church of the same denomination. During 1913 they received on confession 122 members. The report of the past five years on confession 771, of letter 48, total 1,019. This was accomplished by the evangelistic work of the pastor and his people, without the employment of an evangelist or having what is called a "revival." They expect to catch fish in their gospel net, and they find them. At every service a plain and simple gospel is preached, immediate decision is urged, and opportunity given to meet the pastor at his close. Earnest efforts are also made to win our foreign population, and by splendid contributions of money do a world-wide business for God.

Mr. Adams might have taken a more striking case of contrast in the First Presbyterian Church, Seattle, which received last year, by confession 319 and by letter 168. The pastor of this church has stated that at every regular church service he has a number of elders present and meets in season to enroll members immediately after the service. However, to those familiar with the conditions of groups of churches the fact of 200 organizations within a State falling in a certain year to enroll members might not prove so startling when the fact is understood that these churches were possibly many of them without leaders during the year or in locations where the population is stationary and abnormal growth may have occurred in previous years.

Cardinal Farley, of New York, under whom are more Italians than in any city in Italy save Naples only, has labored for years to bring in better conditions in Catholic oversight of Italians emigrating to this country. Backed by others, he has now succeeded in getting the Vatican to decree that Italian priests shall be carefully examined in Italy before being permitted to leave for the United States or other countries, to which large numbers of Catholic Italians have emigrated. The purpose is to raise the standard of priests who are to care for Italian Catholics.

Vast numbers of Italians have gone to Brazil, the number being put at 3,000, 000, and almost as many have gone to France. Italy has, indeed, taken the place of Germany as the European nation sending out large number of immigrants. South Africa has 1,500,000, and even Australia 1,000,000. Training schools are to be established in Italy under direct supervision of the Vatican for such priests as are truly missionary and who propose to go to foreign fields. Advantages are to be stipulated out and kept at home.

A further part of the plan, suggested also by Cardinal Farley, and to attend to which is part of his present purpose in Rome, is the training of competent Italian leaders for the training of Italian young men already in America to lead spiritually Italian congregations here. The cardinal, in common with others, regards the problem of shepherding Italians as of supreme importance, so great is the loss to the church, especially of the young. Pope Pius X has just issued the needed decree to put these laicized into effect.

Panama Exposition officials at San Francisco have just completed arrangements with the international board of the Young Women's Christian Association to erect on the exposition grounds and near to the main entrance a \$50,000 women's building. Work on the building will start at once.

The building will not only be association headquarters, but will be a large measure a social center for women visiting the exposition. It will be three stories high and contain besides a large assembly room, rest rooms, a dining room, lunch room, information bureau, and other spacious rooms for exhibition purposes.

To secure exhibits that will show

Prompt Action and Education Are Only Hope for Cancerous

By CURTIS E. LAKEMAN.

Executive Secretary, American Society for the Control of Cancer.
(Exclusive Service The Survey Press Bureau.)
Cancer can be prevented or cured and the needless sacrifice of thousands of lives can be stopped by educating the public as to the facts about this disease. The cause of cancer is not understood, but it is known that the conditions under which it develops, and it is certain that safety lies only in early recognition of the symptoms and in prompt operation. Radium is useful in some cases, but it is not to be relied upon as a substitute for surgical treatment—the only known cure.

This message of the hope to be found in early and competent treatment should be spread broadcast. The need of supplying the public with more and better knowledge about the disease is vividly shown by a newspaper clipping recently received from the "Woman's Journal," a woman wrote to the inquiry column of the newspaper in question that a lump on her breast had been growing about a year. She said she had been told that "kerosene rubbed on it was good for it," and had tried it without result other than to cause inflammation. The general state of ignorance, delay, and neglect in regard to the early signs of cancer is shown by actual statistics which cannot be disputed. The foremost surgeon of the world recently said in a public address that people wait on the average, a whole year after discovering some suspicious symptom before they come to the operating table. Another surgeon stated that seven records and cases of the largest New York hospitals to throw light, both on the frequency of cancer, and the delay in seeking treatment. Out of 12,546 surgical patients, he found that 1,200 had cancer, approximately one in twenty-two, or 5 per cent. In sixty-five cases of first operation for cancer, he found that after discovery of a tumor, or after the first surgical operation, he found that 112 men had waited on the average 12 months before consulting the surgeon, and the thirty women, an average of 11.9 months.

In like manner Dr. Winter, of Königsberg, Prussia, the pioneer in the education of the public on cancer, analyzed 1,087 records of operable cases, and showed that 87 per cent of these patients died of cancer. He found that 112 men had waited on the average 12 months before consulting the surgeon, and the thirty women, an average of 11.9 months. In like manner Dr. Winter, of Königsberg, Prussia, the pioneer in the education of the public on cancer, analyzed 1,087 records of operable cases, and showed that 87 per cent of these patients died of cancer. He found that 112 men had waited on the average 12 months before consulting the surgeon, and the thirty women, an average of 11.9 months.

what girls are really doing, the association has announced prize contests. The contests will be in domestic arts, model wardrobe, writing, art, and honor rolls of local associations. The prizes are money, but are in the form of college tuitions and for further education. Besides persons' prizes, there are awards to associations for the largest proportions of full-paid members enrolled in actual work in the church; in community betterment, in eight weeks' club leadership, and other uplift work. These honors are in three classes, the student, the city, and the county associations. Field committees have already been named for groups of States, so that associations, no matter where located, may enter these contests. It is claimed that nearly 500,000 young women will participate in the prize contests, the purpose of which is to secure samples of work actually being done in local associations by the girls for the exhibits. Great interest centers in the model wardrobe contests, the purpose of which is to educate young business women and girls of modest means how they can dress themselves on little money in an attractive and suitable way. There will be two prize offered in this contest, the first for the wardrobe for a girl wearing college away from home and the second for a wardrobe for a business woman. Each contestant or group of contestants must not only make dresses themselves, but must make a complete wardrobe, including hat, underwear and shoes. The prizes will be awarded according to attractiveness and suitability; economy in money expended and on workmanship. A special Panama-Pacific Exposition committee has been appointed to arouse interest and direct these nation-wide contests.

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The encouragement of a precedent, it is to be found in the remarkable reduction in the death rate through a campaign of education conducted by William Koenigsberg. This campaign was designed to reach all people, particularly those who are more susceptible to the disease. The public was informed as to the first symptoms of cancer and the surprising importance of the earliest possible surgical operation. In this campaign the co-operation of the laity and the medical profession, on the one hand, and the press on the other, was enlisted. The cancer death rate of Koenigsberg had increased from fifty-three in 1890 to 110 in 1900, and in 1907 reached a maximum of 130 per 100,000 of the population. The campaign of education then began to take effect, and the rate gradually declined to the point of 118 in 1912. The decrease does not seem large, but it is most important when we remember that nearly everywhere else the rate is steadily increasing.

Even more specific proof of the hope which early operation gives is to be found in the statistics of operations performed in some of the principal American hospitals. These records have never been studied as thoroughly as they will be under the plan of the American Society for the Control of Cancer, and this is a rare mine of information full of the highest interest and significance to the public. A preliminary study of the records kept at the hospital and laboratories of one of the largest American centers of medical education shows clearly that the chances of a permanent cure if operation is resorted to promptly, are very high. It shows with equal clearness that these chances decrease with every day of delay. And as the likelihood of cure becomes remote the immediate danger and damage of the operation becomes greater. That is to say, a new and small tumor can be removed without much pain and without much mutilation but an old and dispersed cancer leaves a serious wound behind it.

These records have already been analyzed and tabulated for cancer of the lip, tongue, and breast. The statement of results takes account of the conditions said to precede actual cancer, such as tobacco blisters, white spots, and sore places about the teeth. While there is some dispute as to the bearing of such conditions on the development of true cancer, it cannot be denied that in many cases they seem to cause the disease. In considering the result of operations to remove these "precancerous lesions," it should, of course, be remembered that these conditions are not always produced by the development of true cancer, and the statistics should be understood in that light. In operations on the tongue, the figures show that the prompt removal of the "precancerous" lesion resulted in 100 per cent of cures. In the second stage, that of malignant wart, complete removal was equally effective. But when the actual figures of developed cancer were studied, the proportion of cures dropped from once to 50 per cent. In cancer of the breast, the danger of delay is equally apparent. In the milder

form, called adenocarcinoma, the percentage of cure in all cases was 75, but in the late cases—i. e., those in which the cancerous nature of the tumor was already advanced—the percentage was but 41. In the early cases, on the other hand, it was 100 per cent. In these early cases there is a warning lump in the breast, but no outward sign of the malignant tumor. In the more malignant forms of breast tumor, the general percentage of cures dropped to 35, and in late cases to 25, or one patient out of three. But even here the cures in early cases reached 85 per cent. In other words, the patient raises her chances of recovery from 25 per cent to 85 per cent, by going to the surgeon early.

In operations for cancer of the lip, the reports show 100 per cent of cures in the earliest stages, and 75 per cent of cures after complete operation in the later stages. If the operation was incomplete and the cancer returned, the percentage of cures dropped to 35. The evidence so far collected on early cancer also gives an opportunity for a message to the people of the world in the form of a warning. Although the chances of a cure here are less, the disease is many instances is by no means hopeless. Even when the hope of cure is remote, a great deal of suffering and a life of usefulness and the relief of much suffering.

ROMAN CATHOLIC.

A most successful and enjoyable reunion of the members of the alumnae of the historic St. Vincent's Academy, which formerly stood on the corner of Tenth and G streets, was held in Carroll Hall Thursday under the auspices of the St. Patrick's Alumnae Association. A large number of the pupils of the old academy and the clergy and faculty of St. Patrick's, as well as the younger attendants of St. Patrick's Academy were present, and were delightfully entertained with an interesting program of choruses and recitations.

McCormick's "I Hear You Calling Me" was effectively rendered by Miss Margery C. Lucas during the course of the evening. The recitation committee consisted of the following: Miss Alice R. Lucas, president of St. Patrick's Alumnae Association; Miss Irene Cusick, vice president; Miss Jane T. Barrett, secretary; Miss Mary E. Barrett, treasurer; Misses Marie Eschby-Smith, Margaret Joy, Kathryn Hannan, Marie Lyons, Clara Mae Rickenbach, Mae Sullivan, Katherine Sullivan, and Margery Lucas.

The St. Patrick's Alumnae who attended were: Misses Gretchen Baden, Marie Osborne, Clara Mae Rickenbach, Margaret Smith, Kathleen Smith, Lucine McDonald, Marie Lyons, Alice Lucas, Margery J. Barrett, Helen Connell, Isamann, Marie Hines, Eunice Deane, Regina Fisher, Ella Corcoran, Katherine Fegan, Marjorie Durham, Irene Burdine, Marie Barrett, Gertrude Burns, Irene Cusick, Beatrice Deeds, May Sanford, Mabel Crograve, Mary Snow, Mae Sullivan, Katherine Sullivan, Helen Sheekels, Margaret Daly, Jennie Norris, Marie Joyce, Dorothy Langston, Mary Moran, Margaret Joy, Kathryn Hannan, Gertrude Bartholomew, Gertrude Farrell, Genevieve Gaskins, Lucille Gaskins, and Margaret Flynn.

PRESBYTERIAN.

"The General Assembly" will be the subject of the sermon at the U. S. Soldiers' Home, New York Avenue Presbyterian Church this morning by the pastor, Rev. Wallace Radcliffe, D. D. "The General Assembly" will be the title of the pastor's sermon at 10 o'clock in the evening.

The Price in Human Life That We Pay for Our Lead Pencils

By C. M. GOETHE.
(Exclusive Service The Survey Press Bureau.)
Could a reporter's pencil write a story of its own? It has one that ought to be told.

Running through the Southern States is a belt of cedar. From these trees were split the rails which last nearly a century. The rail fences are as much characteristic of the South as the large houses of the South. In all stages of the young days of the republic, the famous singing of the plantation negroes and their banjo music. But the rail fence is passing. It is being made into high-grade lumber. The rail fence is being replaced by a fence of lead pencils. The fence of lead pencils is a story of exploited people—recognition hungry and easily imposed upon. There are perhaps a dozen pencil mills in the South, and one of them is in the fence, paying part cash and part in a wire fence. The product is shipped abroad to Austria, Germany and Belgium, where the graphite is mined and the lead pencils are made. Recently Japan has become a competitor of Europe and a customer of the Southern mills.

Upon an upper floor of a pencil mill the laborer works. The air is as rusty as if rusty snow were falling. "A generation ago we never had a death from consumption in our country," said a better-known worker in one of the pencil sections. "Recently we have reached sixty odd deaths. We do not know the cause."

Use Piece Work System.
The men are employed under the piece work system. They have no labor unions. They work much longer than the eight-hour day, which some of us believe is ideal. But they also work under conditions which seem dangerous. The cedar rails are reduced to pencil lengths. Then the lead-graphite is pressed into the lead pencil, and the finished pencils are made. Recently Japan has become a competitor of Europe and a customer of the Southern mills.

Claude Greenwald, of the linotype section at the Washington Post, was surrounded by a drink-craved mob, bearing inflammatory banners, and harangued by fanatic leaders, and only by the aid of a guard of federal soldiers was the mob dispersed, and the crowd and a number of Americans citizens aided to escape by boarding the collier Jupiter.

Charles H. Leeds, timekeeper in the hand section, on his recent visit to his home in Carlisle, Pa., attended a lecture by James W. Sullivan, a well-known writer and lecturer on labor subjects, and a former apprentice with Mr. Leeds in the office of the American Democrat, of that place, some fifty years ago.

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Dennis P. Gleason, an electrician's helper, passed away in the office after a few hours' illness. The deceased was a young man, about thirty years of age, and a member of G. O. Council, No. 21, of the National Union.

After an absence of several months, Louis Rosenfeld, a former well-known skilled laborer in the hand section, day, has been reinstated and assigned to the bindery.

The many friends of Mrs. G. I. Carter, a directress in the pamphlet bindery, were pained to learn of the death of her mother. She was in her eighty-third year.

Mrs. Carter, a widow, had the latest residents in Washington, having been born in this city. She resided here all her life. Her recollections of early life in this city were interesting to relate, especially concerning the Indians about Washington, the laying of the corner stone of Washington Monument and the stirring days of the civil war.

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Edward S. Wild, of the hand section, night, has been granted the remainder of his leave beginning June 1.

Frank Rollow, a well-known compositor in the State branch, has returned from a ten days leave passed at his home in Lancaster, Pa.

Dennis P. Gleason, an electrician's helper, passed away in the office after a few hours' illness. The deceased was a young man, about thirty years of age, and a member of G. O. Council, No. 21, of the National Union.

After an absence of several months, Louis Rosen